

**Item Title:** Wake County Commission for Women Realignment

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners:**

- 1. Realign the mission of the Wake County Commission for Women to focus on board priorities such as issues facing women in vulnerable communities, health care, child care, affordable housing and issues that were identified within the recent report from the Task Force on Women and Employment; and**
- 2. Modify the composition and structure of the Wake County Commission for Women; and**
- 3. Accept applications for a more focused and issue-oriented Wake County Commission for Women.**

**Item Summary:**

The Wake County Commission for Women was established by the Wake County Board of Commissioners (BOC) through Resolution R-94-75 on August 29, 1994 and members are appointed by the BOC. The 1994 BOC stated the purpose of the group to be “acknowledging and honoring women and their role as vital contributors to our County, to education and advocate on their behalf, and to celebrate that which they have done and will continue to do” (Resolution R-94-75, Wake County Board of Commissioners, August 29, 1994).

In reviewing the mission and recent accomplishments of the Commission for Women, staff believes now is the time to focus the work of the commission on issues that are impacting women in Wake County today. Staff is recommending changes to the mission statement to align it more with specific challenges women face today.

**Existing Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Wake County Commission for Women is to act as an advocate for women and as a resource of information on the status of women in Wake County to the Wake County Board of Commissioners by:

- Identifying and assessing needs of Wake County women
- Cooperating with groups and individuals involved in activities on the status of women
- Providing information to the Wake County Board of Commissioners on issues of high interest to women in Wake County for consideration of public support, or program funding, and/or passage of laws

**Proposed Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Wake County Commission for Women is to identify, develop and implement strategies that will eliminate discrimination which affects women who reside and/or work in Wake County by:

- Providing advice and guidance to the BOC on legislation and policy issues affecting women;
- Encouraging equal opportunity for women in employment and pay issues, health care issues, and issues relating to homelessness and housing
- Conducting educational seminars in collaboration with other organizations for residents and businesses in Wake County

As a result of the realignment and focus, it is also appropriate to modify the composition of the Wake County Commission for Women. The recommended Board composition will consist of up to 20 members, with two members from each district, and six at large members, serving staggered terms. Recruitment for membership will begin immediately with the goal of having the first meeting in January of 2018.

**Proposed Structure:**

1. Representative from District 1 (2 year term)
2. Representative from District 1 (3 year term)
3. Representative from District 2 (2 year term)
4. Representative from District 2 (3 year term)
5. Representative from District 3 (2 year term)
6. Representative from District 3 (3 year term)
7. Representative from District 4 (2 year term)
8. Representative from District 4 (3 year term)
9. Representative from District 5 (2 year term)
10. Representative from District 5 (3 year term)
11. Representative from District 6 (2 year term)
12. Representative from District 6 (3 year term)
13. Representative from District 7 (2 year term)
14. Representative from District 7 (3 year term)
15. (3) Representatives – At Large (2 year term)
16. (3) Representatives – At Large (3 year term)

**Attachments:**

None